- Setting-up of IWT Directorate/Divisions by each of the State Governments for focused development of IWT Programmes for better coordination among various agencies and for implementing regulations relating to IWT.
- Preparation of status paper by each State on their Inland Waterways, evolving strategy for their development and linkage with National Waterways, where these exist and drawing up a comprehensive plan.
- Declaration of new national waterways as may be feasible with a view to extend the coverage of IWT in the country and to avail of the advantage of such waterways. Provision of all necessary facilities in the existing 3 waterways within 10th Plan period *i.e.* dependable fairway, terminals, reliable and full time navigation together with fixed and regular cargo service schedule; the justification of these projects not to be determined by the rate of return during the 10th Plan but by the need for creating necessary infrastructure as developmental activity.
- States to earmark of fixed percentage of their budget for road and tourism sectors for accelerated IWT development.
- States to empower Panchayats to undertake various supporting activities such as desilting, construction of approach roads, jetties, watch and ward activities for development and maintenance of the waterways for generation of economic activities and employment.
- The States should also dovetail approved developmental programmes to take care of some of the local requirement of IWT.
- Development of tourism related activities including water cruises around and between places of heritage, historical, cultural and religious importance.

Provisions set for the registration of orphanages

†3590. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the requirements/conditions set for the registration of the orphanages in view of the incidents of exploitation of the children therein;

(b) whether all the orphanages are constantly complying with such requirements;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether these orphanages are inspected from time to time;

(d) whether there is any provision of keeping track of the children's future after their adoption; and

(e) if so, the details of the shortcomings found during the last three years, till date, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) State Governments have been asked to register all orphanages in their jurisdiction under any legislation or rules that may be prevalent in the State and to constantly monitor the activities of the orphanages to ensure that only those who are recognized or registered are allowed to take up such activities.

(c) State Governments have been advised to undertake regular inspections.

(d) and (e) Central Adoption Resource Agency, keeps track of children given for inter-country adoption through follow up reports for a period of 5 years. This system has been working satisfactorily. With regard to in-country adoptions the concerned adoption agencies and orphanages are required to monitor the follow up progress of the child.

Representations from various castes for inclusion in OBC list

3591. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from various castes organizations from Tamil Nadu to include their castes in OBC list for the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Schemes for minorities

3592. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that minorities especially Muslims are getting lowest priority in the schemes and programmes of Government;